

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments. Claims 1-30 remain pending in the case. Claims 1-30 are rejected. Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 21 and 22 are amended herein. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by PCT Published Patent Application WO 00/30293 by Johnson et al., hereinafter referred to as the "Johnson" reference. Applicants have reviewed the cited reference and respectfully submit that Johnson does not anticipate the embodiments of the present invention as recited in Claims 1-30 in view of the following rationale.

Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner to independent Claim 1 that recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to (emphasis added):

An intelligent device for coupling an electronic device to a network comprising:

a first interface for communicatively coupling said intelligent device to said network, said network having a head end, wherein said head end is a central control site operable to remotely access said intelligent device over said network;

a second interface comprising a plurality of communication ports for communicatively coupling said intelligent device to a plurality of client devices at said plurality of communication ports

such that said client devices are communicatively coupled to said network;

means for processing and interpreting data coupled to said first interface; and

fault detection means coupled to said means for processing and interpreting data, said fault detection means for performing fault detection in said network.

Independent Claims 11 and 21 recites similar limitations. Claims 2-10 that depend from independent Claim 1, Claims 12-20 that depend on independent Claim 11, and Claims 22-30 that depend on Claim 21 provide further recitations of the features of the present invention.

Johnson and the claimed invention are very different. Applicants understand Johnson to teach a hub device for use in diagnosis and recovery in high performance digital loops (Abstract). In particular, Johnson teaches a hub device that includes interfaces for connecting the hub to stations, where one interface connects to a single station. Furthermore, Johnson teaches that the hub includes a diagnostic arrangement for performing the diagnosis and recovery.

With reference to Figure 2 of Johnson, a hub device 102 having two ports (port 1 and port 2) is shown. In particular, diagnostic arrangement 106 is comprised within hub 102 (page 5, lines 25-26, and lines 39-40). Diagnostic arrangement 106 is operable to monitor data flow between stations S1 and S2. Applicants respectfully assert that system 100 includes three devices: hub 102,

station S1 and station S2. Specifically, Applicants assert that Johnson teaches that arrangement 106 is comprised within hub 102. While arrangement 106 may be used to diagnose system failures outside of hub 102 (page 20, lines 34-40), arrangement 106 is integral to hub 102.

In contrast, embodiments of the claimed invention are directed towards an intelligent device including “a first interface for communicatively coupling said intelligent device to said network, said network having a head end, wherein said head end is a central control site operable to remotely access said intelligent device over said network” (emphasis added). In particular, the intelligent device is communicatively coupled to a head end over a network. With reference to Figure 4 of the present application, LAN 400 is shown, wherein head end 405 is communicatively coupled to a plurality of intelligent devices (e.g., intelligent devices 410, 415, and 420). As described in the accompanying description, “[i]n one embodiment, head end 405 is a central control site that can access the intelligence of intelligent devices 410, 415, and 420. In another embodiment, head end 405 is a central data switch or hub” (page 13, lines 13-15). In particular, head end 405 is a separate device from the intelligent devices, and is operable to access the intelligence of the intelligent devices.

Applicants respectfully assert that Johnson does not teach, describe or suggest a system including a head end for remotely accessing an intelligent

device, as claimed. As described above, arrangement 106 is comprised within hub 102. Hub 102 cannot remotely access arrangement 106 over a network, because arrangement 106 is integral to hub 102.

Moreover, embodiments of the claimed invention are directed towards an intelligent device including a “second interface comprising a plurality of communication ports for communicatively coupling said intelligent device to a plurality of client devices at said plurality of communication ports such that said client devices are communicatively coupled to said network” (emphasis added). With reference to Figure 5 of the present invention, a plurality of second interfaces 506a-d of intelligent data concentrator 502 are communicatively coupled to client devices 510a-d, respectively (page 14, lines 16-20).

Applicants respectfully assert that Johnson in particular does not teach, disclose, or suggest an intelligent device including a second interface comprising a plurality of communication ports for communicative coupling to a plurality of client devices, as claimed. In contrast, Johnson discloses a second interface having a single port for connecting a hub to a single station. Specifically, each interface as taught in Johnson can be connected to a single device. With reference to Figure 2 of Johnson, station S1 is connected to hub 102 through port 1 and station S2 is connected to hub 102 through port 2.

Applicants respectfully assert that Johnson does not anticipate the invention as

claimed, because Johnson does not teach describe or suggest that a second interface including a plurality of ports. In contrast, Johnson teaches a single second interface (port 2) that can be coupled to a single station (station S2).

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that nowhere does Johnson teach, disclose or suggest the claimed embodiments of the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 11 and 21, and that these claims are thus in a condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit the Johnson also does not teach or suggest the additional claimed features of the present invention as recited in Claims 2-10 that depend from independent Claim 1, Claims 12-20 that depend from independent Claim 11, and Claims 22-30 that depend from independent Claim 21. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-10, 12-20 and 22-30 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and are in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

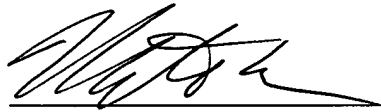
In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims. Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-30 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO L.L.P.

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Matthew J. Blecher
Registration No. 46,558

Two North Market Street
Third Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
(408) 938-9060